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Statewide Planning Office  
Division of Program Development  
3132 Channel Drive, Suite 200  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-7898

RE: Dept of Transportation "Statewide Transportation Improvements Program"

We have just learned that Governor Murkowski has budgeted large expenditures of money for the Knik Arm Bridge and the totally unnecessary Gravina Bridge.

When there are so many current highway improvements that need funding, this is a ridiculous and wasteful expenditure of funds (as is spending billions of tax dollars on the Juneau Road or Bradfield Canal Road).

WE URGE YOU TO DIRECT AVAILABLE TRANSPORTATION FUNDS TOWARD SUPPORTING THE MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM THAT IS OUR VITAL TRANSPORTATION LINK HERE IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA. The mainline vessel system has worked very well over the nearly thirty years we have lived in Petersburg. We request, as we have many times in the past, that the mainline vessel system be fully funded, including money for repair and replacement of these vessels as needed.

We would also urge you to support road improvements in Southeast communities like the Haugen Drive upgrade in Petersburg. Projects that have been diminished or cancelled should be fully funded before any of the frivolous mega-projects – the Gravina Bridge, the Knik Arm Bridge, the Juneau Road, the Bradfield Canal Road- be even considered.

Yours truly,

*Jay Pritchett*  
*Carolyn Pritchett*

Cc: Governor Frank Murkowski, Representative Peggy Wilson, Senator Bert Stedman

